Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)

**NATIVE TO:** Eurasia

**CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS:** Identified in the Chicago region.

**IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS:** Difficult to distinguish from several native species. Erect triangular stems and long narrow tapering leaves up to 3 ft long and ½ in wide. Blooms from late June into August with rosy pink or white ¾ to 1 in flowers arranged in clusters (umbels) well above the foliage.

**IMPORTANCE:** Serious threat in northern wetlands as a replacement to native plants.

**HABITAT:** Shallow wetlands, lakes, ditches, or streams.

**MANAGEMENT:** Can be cut back below the water surface several times during the growing season or dug from the roots.

Above: Grass-like linear foliage.

Right: Flowers born in mid-summer in clusters.